



Potters Guild of British Columbia

1359 Cartwright St., Granville Island
Vancouver, B.C. V6H 3R7
(604) 683-9623

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 1989

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THE NEWS

From the Oregon Potters' Association October Newsletter.....

"The semi-annual Studio Potter Network is becoming a most worthwhile and informative publication. The recent Fall '89 issue....includes articles on "the Great Milwaukee Clay Stomp", "Fired Up" in Metchosis, ...one on Tax wars and Art versus Craft.... and a beginning list of the Studio Potter Network Bed and Breakfast. Would you like to stay with Peter Stichbury next time you go to New Zealand? Join the Network Bed and Breakfast, c/o Box 70, Goffstown, NH 03045.

The Studio Potter Network sent the Potters Guild a large number of copies of the above mentioned issue, and they are available at no charge at the office. It is an informative publication, even at the normal rate of \$3.50 an issue.

Kathryn Youngs' work is featured on the cover of the latest Contact magazine out of Alberta, and she's written an article on the development of her work in the same issue.

The Cartwright Gallery has announced the appointment of Lloyd Herman as Director (Consulting) and Paul Grant as Assistant Director to plan its expansion into new, larger quarters in downtown Vancouver, late in 1991. Herman, a consultant to the Gallery since July, 1988, was the founding director of the National Craft Museum of the United States, the Smithsonian Institute's Renwick Gallery in Washington, D.C. from 1971 to 1986. Grant, a Vancouver native, recently returned after three years as General Manager of the Saskatoon Symphony.

The Cartwright Gallery is also actively seeking gifts of significant objects from across Canada, and funds to further develop the collection of "important artistic works, functional or nonfunctional, by outstanding crafts people working in Canada." Their permanent collection is described, in the Gallery's collection policy statement, as "an ongoing collection of crafts of significant artistic, cultural and historical merit. The

role of the collections is to provide a profile of the evolution and artistic development of the contemporary craft movement in Canada, and to improve public and official recognition of Canadian craftspeople and the excellence of their art."

From an English daily, the following tidbit is offered.

O-LEVEL POTTER IN JAIL 'FAKED MASTERPIECES'

Vincent Mason 's pottery teacher at his once-a-week classes in jail regarded him as only a mediocre pupil. But Mrs. Cleone Abbs was intrigued by the initials "BL" he scratched on his work. Mason explained that the letters stood for his alias, "Bernard Lee".

In fact, a jury at Southwark Crown Court was told yesterday, the vases, pots and dishes he was creating with his new-found skill were being sold at auctions, including Sotheby's and Christie's, as the work of the renowned Cornish potter Bernard Leach.

Mr. Alan Suckling, prosecuting, said William Boardman, another prisoner at Featherstone jail near Wolverhampton, handed them to an antique dealer friend who regularly visited him.

Christie's sold a fake Leach vase for well over £1000 and a bowl for £240.Sotheby's accepted a bowl as "an exceptional and unusual example" of the master potter, but by then Mr. Richard Dennis, an expert on Leach, began to suspect the authenticity of work purchased on his behalf.

Back at the prison, Mrs. Abbs "just couldn't believe it" when she learned of the experts' opinions of Mason's pots.....

Hearing that Mason had eventually obtained only an average pass in O level pottery, the judge commented: "It's impossible to satisfy examiners sometimes. If this work is average, I wonder what they give a distinction for?"

Mason, 47, of Fawcett Street, Salford, denies conspiracy to obtain by deception between Oct. 1979 and Nov. 1980. Boardman, 47, has admitted the charge. The hearing was adjourned until today.

The Potters Guild of B.C. NEWSLETTER

is published 10 times a year. Submissions are welcome, and should be in the Guild office by the last Friday of the month. Material may be edited for publication.

Managing Editor: Jan Kidnie.

Editorial Committee: Bob Kingsmill, Laurel McGregor, Hiro Urakami, Nathan Rafla, Anne Fleetham.

Mailing: Jobst Froberg, Rosemary Amon.

Advertising rates: \$75.00 full page; \$40.00 half page; \$25.00 quarter page; business card \$15.00; classified \$5.00 for 3 lines; additional lines \$2.00 each. All ads must be prepaid.

The Potters Guild of B.C. membership is \$20.00-individuals, \$30.00-groups, January to January. See application form elsewhere in this issue.

Board of Directors: Sam Kwan, Pres., Tam Irving, Vice-Pres.; Nathan Rafla, Secretary; Kathryn Youngs, Treas.; Theota Dancer, Bob Kingsmill, June MacDonald, D'Arcy Margesson, Cherie Markiewicz, Elsa Schamis, Terry Ryals & Ron Tribe.

* **LATE NEWS!** RICHARD NOTKIN, FROM OREGON, WILL GIVE A WORKSHOP FOR THE GUILD, entitled "SCULPTURAL APPROACH TO POTTERY", AT ECCAD, JANUARY 20th & 21st. MORE IN DECEMBER!

GUILD MEETING REPORT

A good-sized gathering of 35 people met at the Guild on Thursday evening, the 26th, to hear Don Hutchinson, potter and instructor in the VVC Langara Ceramic Department. Don shared his wry and interesting observations on his development as a ceramic artist, doling out equal portions of hints, humour and inspiration along the way.

He notes that a trip to Europe several years ago and his resulting exposure to all kinds of ancient and contemporary ceramics has had a profound effect on him. Since his move from stoneware to lower temperature ware, he has learned to relax and have fun in his work. Possibly the potential and limitations of the earthenware clay and the decoration by slip pouring and trailing, and carving and writing on the surface have a "built-in" freeing effect. In any case, it is wonderful to see.

Don offered a few hints, along with showing slides of his work, that those of you working in earthenware may find useful.

The necessity of handling the ware while still damp for slip work forced Don to develop a bat system for the wheel that might be useful in many areas. He keeps a stack of 6" by 6" unglazed commercial ceramic tiles by the wheel, and as he throws, he does so on one of these tiles held in place by pieces of wood of equal height nailed onto the bat.

The finished pot on the tile can then be removed all together, without doing any wire cutting of the base at this point, so that pouring slip is facilitated, without damaging the pot. The wooden bat also does not have to be replaced for every piece, but serves as an ongoing working surface. Sounds wonderful.

Don also had some suggestions regarding record keeping. He photographs his work before it goes out of the studio, in slide and print format, both. The photos are kept in an album with (eventual) owner identified, and so, as the year passes by, he has an annual record of his work. To take photos, he suggests acquiring old window blinds of various colours at garage sales, and using them as instant backdrops. They can also be painted and mounted over a photo table for easy reference and use.

To transport his ware, he buys boxes in 3 sizes from the PBM Pizza Box Maker Ltd. of south Vancouver. If things get slow, you can always go into the home delivery business!

Following Don's presentation, an interesting discussion followed of the changes in ceramics over the last 20 years: from purpose, to accessibility, to the real value of one's work. The evening was a good reminder to us all that we need these sessions to talk and laugh with our fellow potters and to maintain contacts in the ceramic community. We thank Don for his participation.

It is hoped that a meeting with a guest speaker will be held in early December. You will be sent an announcement of exact date and time, if it can be arranged.



MOTHERHOOD

Don Hutchinson



Gallery of B.C. Ceramics
1359 Cartwright St. Granville Island
Vancouver BC, Canada
(604) 669-5645 V6H 3R7

GALLERY SCHEDULE

Sheila Dakin Lindfield's sculptural work, entitled "Moving Upon Silence", will be featured until November 26th.

The Gallery Christmas show will open November 28th through December 24th, during regular hours, Tuesday through Sunday, 10:30 am to 5:30 pm.

GALLERY PROFILE

Connie Glover's recent feature of work broke new ground for her in both form and technique. In her work she shows strong interest in geological formations and textures: forms which rest precariously on top of one another defying gravity. Coloured surfaces which feel and look like oxidized bronze are contrasted against the smooth velvety surface of white terra sigillata. Rocky outcroppings are heavily textured in red clay, oxides stain the surfaces to highlight the subtle presence of a face sculpted into the surface, or a doorway hints at the possibility of what lies behind or below the surface. Connie's work is definitely exploring new ground.

This past summer, Connie took part in Steve Heineman's sculptural workshop at Emily Carr, which revived her interest in low-fire glaze techniques in the electric kiln. The ease of firing, coupled with Connie's interest in a process which is environmentally friendly, is most important in her choosing the materials she is now using in her work. She has also adopted unconventional techniques such as applying slip and stains over glaze, in looking for new ways of expression. Connie also states, "I am intrigued by the idea of tension created by the delicate balance of one piece on another, or one piece suspended between two others, as though caught in a precarious balance."

Connie has studied ceramics extensively here in B.C., at Banff, and in California, and has a continuing interest in increasing her awareness and exploration of clay.

December 15th is the final 1989 jurying deadline for new work in the Gallery. As usual, 6 pieces of new work or slides, along with a typed biography, are required.



Connie Glover

EXHIBITIONS

The National Biennial of Ceramics Corporation is pleased to announce that its 4th juried exhibition will take place in Trois-Rivieres from June 12 to August 26, 1990. A selection of the works will then be part of a travelling exhibition which will be presented in several large cities across Canada. A total of \$18,000 in prizes will be awarded to the artists whose works are selected by the jury. For further information, check the Potters' Guild office, or write to C.P. 1596, Trois Rivieres, Quebec, G9A 5L9, or phone (819)374-3244.

The Fraser Valley Potters Guild presents **Clay 89**, its juried exhibition at the Maple Ridge Art Gallery, 11949 Haney Place, M.R., 467-5855, from November 12th to December 17th. Coordinator is Josie Stead, 462-9324.

Carole Driver, "Presence: New Sculpture", November 3rd to 26th, Burnaby Art Gallery, 6344 Deer Lake Ave., Burnaby. 291-9441.

Gail Carney, "Dolls on Paper with Refrigerators", grunt Gallery, 209 East 6th Ave., Vancouver, November 14-25; and Pitt Galleries, 36 Powell, November 20-December 9th.

Carlton Ball, "55 Years of Ceramics", a Retrospective show until November 22nd at the Seward Park Art Studio, 5900 Lk. Washington Blvd, Seattle. At the age of 78, he is now completing a nine-volume work on the history of handbuilding and other ceramic topics.

JOY OR FRUSTRATION?

There seems to be a thesis extant which suggests that working with clay diminishes personal frustrations.

This wouldn't be of any interest except for the number of times visitors to my studio say, "What a fabulous way to get rid of your frustrations!" This line usually comes when I'm wedging clay, recycling it, or when some large bowl has ungraciously flown off the wheel-head, to land somewhere between my left and right knee.

I assume people believe that the hard physical work that potters put in really does take away from the energy needed for the expression of frustrations. There might be something to that, but it is much more complex.

To begin with, I don't think people choose to become potters to reduce the events that frustrate them. Working with clay is a very intimate thing, and the dialogue between clay and potter can itself be a challenge of will. Some days, the potter must give in to the clay and make what it wants. One good days, they work together in a harmony that gives the finished piece a mysterious inner beauty and ring. On those days the potter feels the satisfaction that anyone in the arts feels; — he or she is transported outside themselves and placed in that special state that creativity and the decision-making process it entails gives one.

There is the constant state of hope and expectation with each piece. There are the regular failures as one loses pieces at different stages. There is the necessary acceptance of such losses and the learning process involved.

It's a great complex thing we're all in, and there is some fabulous stuff being made in B.C. It may be that only vastly superior human beings, free from frustrations or other negative human embellishments, choose to work with clay. But don't tell customers or visitors that. Let them believe that the greatest potters are those best fighting the spectre of the social cripple, and their high prices represent the cost necessary for a healthy society.

Bob Kingsmill

WORKSHOPS

"The Case for Clay in Art Education II, Culture and Tradition", The San Jose Symposium, January 10-13, 1990. Contact MC # 221, Santa Clara Co. Office of Education, 100 Skyport Dr., San Jose, CA 95115, (408) 453-6524.

"Form and Function" workshop, January 8-19, 1990, with David Shaner and Tapio Yli-Viikari, the Banff Centre for the Arts, Box 1020, Banff, Alberta, T0L0C0. Application by December 1, 1989. More information available from Banff or in Guild office.

CALLS FOR ENTRY/ OPPORTUNITIES

The Community Arts Council of Vancouver invites participants to its fourth annual juried **Christmas Craft Sale**, to be held at the CAC Gallery during December 1989. They are also accepting proposals for upcoming exhibition in the Davie Street Gallery. Deadline is January 17, 1990. Phone the office at 683-4358, or write the CAC, 837 Davie St., Vancouver, V6Z 1B7, for further information.

The Kent-Harrison Arts Council invites applicants to the 13th Annual **Christmas Tree Craft Fair** in Agassiz, on Saturday December 2nd. Lynda Vaun Scobie, Box 383, Harrison Hot Springs, B.C., V0M 1K0 will send forms and information, with the receipt of a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Cameo's Christmas Craft Sale will be held in the Edmonton Convention Centre, December 2nd to December 10th. For further information, write Ruthe Spector, and #311, 10545 Saskatchewan Dr., Edmonton, Alberta, T6E 6C6, or phone (403) 439-1130. Juried.

Vancouver Craft Market at the VanDusen Botanical Gardens takes place in November and December. Contact Simone Avram, 8540 Demorest Dr., Richmond, B.C., V7A 4M1, or phone 275-2724.

Out of Hand - Christmas Fair, Nov. 30-Dec.3 has moved from the Empress Hotel to larger quarters in the Victoria Conference Centre nearby. Contact 566 Johnson St., Victoria, B.C. V8W 3C6, or phone 384-5221, for further information.

Parke International Markets are now accepting application for their craft markets at Whistler, Kamloops, Van Dusen Gardens, Vancouver, West Vancouver, Coquitlam, White Rock, and Penticton. Contact 3257 W. 36th Ave., Vancouver, B.C., V6N 2R6, or phone 362-2363.

Circle Craft Christmas Market, November 8-12. 16th Annual show and sale of fine art and craft. Vancouver Trade and Convention Centre. Contact Circle Craft Christmas Market, 1386 Cartwright St. Vancouver V6H 3R8, or phone 684-2422.

Circle Craft Gallery is accepting applications for shows in 1990. Contact Helena Wennerstrom, Executive Director, Circle Craft, 1666 Johnston St., Vancouver, V6H 3S2 for details.

Family Christmas, November 18-19. A juried fine arts and crafts event for all ages located at Heritage Hall on Main St., Vancouver. Call Deborah at 732-SHOW.

Queens Park Preschool Craft Fair at Queens Park United Church, New Westminster. November 25. Tables for \$15.00. Call Susan at 524-3050 for further information.

Western Front's 9th Annual Art Fair, Saturday and Sunday, November 25, & 26. 303 East 8th Avenue, Vancouver. Still open to entries. Call 876-9343.

Functional Pot Price Survey, 1989

For comparison purposes, to give you an idea of the prices asked by your fellow potters in Oregon, the summary of a survey of 38 potters is reprinted from the OPA's October Newsletter. Don't forget these are in US dollars!

Item	Undecorated	Decorated	Comments
Small Mug	\$7.90	\$9.60	Low price of \$4.00, next lowest \$8.00. High of \$12.
Med. Mug	8.80	9.23	
Large Mug	10.60	12.50	
Small Teapot	40.17		Most common price \$20, low \$10
Medium Teapot		56.67	
Dinner Plate	20.29	20.87	
Salad Plate	13.00	13.64	Low \$5, high \$24
Small Soup Bowl	7.28	14.00	
Medium Soup Bowl	8.33	10.41	
Small Serving Bowl	14.00	20.13	Low \$7, high \$16
Medium Serving Bowl	19.00	28.41	
Large Serving Bowl	26.60	44.36	
Xtra Large Ser. Bowl		60.85	Low \$8, high \$35
Small Pitcher	12.80	14.50	
Medium Pitcher	21.70	20.00	
Large Pitcher	24.83	27.00	Low \$10, high \$40
Med. Cov. Casserole	37.66	34.25	
Small Uncov. Cass.		17.25	
Med. Uncov. Cass.		23.70	Low \$20, high \$64
Lg. Uncov. Cass.		35.00	
Small Covered jar	16.50	27.16	Low \$12, high \$22
Med. Covered jar	46.75	48.96	
Large Covered jar		65.50	
Med. Lamp w/shade		110.50	Low \$16.50, high \$35
Lg. Lamp w/shade		165.00	
Lamp w/o shade, med		110.00	
Pie Plate	18.50		Low \$24, high \$50
Pump jar	14.25		

The Biennale Orlandi, Geneva, Switzerland, **Design Contest** for wall and floor tiles measuring 21.6 x 21.6 cm. (ceramic). Deadline January 15, 1990. Contact Biennale Orlandi, Mat Securitas Express X.A., Box 289, Ch 1211, Geneva 26, Switzerland.

Members of the Ontario Clay and Glass Association, **FUSION**, are invited to enter **Fireworks 1990**, opening June 2nd, in Ottawa. Harlan House, Barbara Ensor, and Michael Sheba are the jurors for the show which will tour in major Ontario cities thereafter. For more information, (entry application before Jan. 20, 1990) contact FUSION, c/o Carolynne Pynn-Trudeau, 23 Gordon St., Ottawa, K1S 4C6. (613) 233-9455.

- () Membership Application
 () Membership Renewal
 () Change of Address

Mail to:
 The Potters Guild of B.C.
 1359 Cartwright St.
 Vancouver, B.C. V6H 3R7

Name: _____

Address: _____

City & Province: _____

Postal Code: _____ Tel: _____

I enclose my cheque/money order in the amount of \$

(Fees: Individual: \$20/year, Group: \$30/year)

FOR SALE

Harrison Bell Glaze clearance: 4oz.-\$.99, 1 pint-\$3.99, and 1 gallon-\$9.99; Also cones, brushes, and kiln accessories. Call Bob at 278-9282.

Shimpo Wheel, \$500; 6 cu.ft. kiln \$600; Glaze materials, potters plaster; Phone Shan at 733-6053.

Pug Mill, Amaco Model B. Never used. Cost \$2100; need \$1400, OBO. Leave message for Ron at 421-7341.

Dyna-Kiln 89, Electric, 4 cu.ft. approx.; \$150. Call Adam at 588-4411, Loc 319.

WANTED TO BUY

Electric Wheel for UBC Pottery Club. Call Ruth at 879-3663, evenings.

STUDIO SPACE: GRANVILLE ISLAND

The Potters' Guild of British Columbia is offering the use on a subsidized basis, of an equipped studio for a one-year term, beginning January 1st, 1990, for a qualified applicant.

The individual space in question is one of five in a large group studio. The cost, including utilities, is \$160.00 per month.

Interested applicants please send at least 6 slides of current work, and a resume to the Guild at 1359 Cartwright St., Vancouver, B.C., V6H 3R7., by November 15, 1989.

CHRISTMAS SALES

Capilano College Clay and Textile Arts Program, Annual Christmas Sale of Students and Faculty work, Thursday, November 30; 9 am to 8 pm. South Campus, Rm A117, 2055 Purcell Way, N. Vancouver. 984-4911

Richmond Potters Club Christmas Sale, November 25 & 26, 10am to 3pm. Richmond Arts Centre, 7671 Minoru Gate. 597-8992.

Christmas Sale, Pottery Club, West End Community Centre, 870 Denman. Friday, Dec. 1, 7 pm-9 pm; Saturday & Sunday, Dec. 2 & 3, 10 am- 5 pm.

Christmas Craft Sale, Community Arts Council, November 30-December 23. Tuesday through Saturday, 11 am -6 pm. 837 Davie St. Vancouver. 683-4358.

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Small "TEST" sieve.

For doing small batches of glaze. Fits on top of a small container - 3" in diameter. \$11.65
Mesh sizes: 40,60,80,100,120.

"HAND" sieve.

With interchangeable screens in a plastic rim. 8" in diameter. Fits on 5 gallon bucket. \$38.50

We continue to carry the larger Talisman "ROTARY" sieve with interchangeable screens. The screens for the new Hand sieve will also fit the larger mechanical sieve.

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STILL 50 % OFF ASSORTED GLAZE AND BODY STAINS

These are a variety of stains that Estrin used to carry. Once these are gone, they will still continue to be available on a special order basis

**CLOSED: SATURDAY,
NOVEMBER 11TH
REMEMBRANCE DAY.**

Our regular hours are:

Monday-Friday..... 9 - 5
Saturday 9 - 1

As Saturdays are often very busy, please phone a few days ahead if you can, and we'll have your order ready for you.